

The Daily Gazetteer.

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1742.

A Worthy Freeholder of Exeter has just publish'd a Small Piece there for his Fellow-Citizens, 'tis humbly apprehended, equally deserves the Perusal of all the Citizens and Burgesses in England, and therefore we give it at large in this Paper. Intituled, *Considerations on the Project for a further Limitation of the Number of Placemen in the House of Commons, &c.*



HAVE too good an Opinion of your Understanding to imagine, that any, who have had Opportunities of knowing, or have been in the least attentive to, the State of our Publick Affairs, can be insensible, that the Alarm, so industriously spread throughout the Nation, of the Danger

of our LIBERTIES are in, from a Corrupt Influence of the Court on the Parliament, is a Creature of the same Phantasm, blown about by the Embellish'd Breath of angry Men, for Purposes but too obvious. For to what End are those Heats and Animosities excited amongst us? Or why are the People frequently appealed to, but in order to get some who are now in Power out of the Saddle, to make way for themselves to go in, and take their Places? And as with this View Attempts, under various Pretences, have been, again and again, unsuccessfully made, indefatigable as some Men are, rather than not succeed, the CONSTITUTION itself, which has hitherto stood Proof against all the Force of their united Batteries and open Attacks, is now to be wounded in a secret and unheeded Manner: A Project being at this Time set on foot (of which, I am told, great Hopes are conceiv'd) for a further Limitation of the Number of Place-Men in the House of Commons; by which we are not to understand that the Number of Places are to be less'n'd, but that the Number of Places are to be less'n'd, or fewer Pensions given; for nothing of this is so much as pretended to, nor any saving of this to be made by the Projected Limitation: These being all to remain in *Statu quo*, both as to Number and Value.

The Thing therefore propos'd is only a further Limitation of the Number of those Gentlemen, in the House of Commons, whose Abilities and Distinguished Merit have recommended them to the Royal Trust, in the several Departments of the Administration of our Publick Affairs.

For the greater Eclaircissement of the Merits of this Population, let us take a short View of the Frame of our Government, which is a Model of the Gothic Order, and aptly enough call'd a Mix'd Monarchy, consisting of King, Lords, and Commons, each having their separate and distinct Rights, independent one of another. The Crown has its Prerogative, the Lords and Commons have their Rights and Privileges. They have also, as One Body Politick, in their Supreme and Legislative Capacity, their joint Power, but those so closely connected, and dependent one on another, that One can do nothing without the Other: So that in Case of a Misunderstanding and Disagreement among themselves, all the Affairs of Government are at a Stand. Now the Commons, in their Parliamentary Capacity, being the Representative of the People, and chosen out from among Themselves by an ancient and indisputable Right of electing such Persons to represent them in Parliament as in their Opinion are the fittest and best qualified for that Service; any further Limitation, or indeed any Limitation at all, is, so far as it extends, an Incroachment upon that ancient and indisputable Right of the People. And as it is a fundamental one, and the surest Pledge of our justly valued Freedom, and has hitherto prov'd the Bulwark of our Liberties, we can never be too jealous of any Incroachments (under what Pretences soever) made upon it. And this Right, essential to our Freedom, ought always to be esteem'd so sacred and inviolable, as never to admit of the least Abridgement or Limitation.

Whatever Reasons these Gentlemen may have in proposing this Limitation, I think, the whole Force of them must be grounded on the one or the other of

the following Suppositions: Either that the People have not sufficient Understanding to judge of the Fitness and Qualification of Persons to represent them; or that they are so debauch'd and corrupted by an undue Influence as to vote for Persons contrary to their own Judgment.

Now, this Way of Reasoning, even upon their own Principles, is manifestly partial and fallacious, unless they will extend their Limitation to all Sorts of Corruption and undue Influence, as well to that against, as for the Court. For it is a just and well-grounded Observation of a very learned and judicious Writer, (some time in the Beginning of the Reign of Queen Anne) that *Engagements with a Party, Revenge, and Ambition*, are stronger Incitements to bring Men to embarrass the State, embroil their Country at home, and betray it abroad, than Rewards or Pensions. And therefore, if those Gentlemen are in earnest, and mean no more than the Welfare and Security of the Publick, let them spend their Proposition, and extend it to the former as well as to the latter.

But as every Limitation of this Sort is depriving the People of their Ancient and Fundamental Right of making choice of such Men as they, who in this Case are the proper Judges, esteem the fittest and best qualified to represent them, whether in or out of the Service of the Crown, so I hope my Countrymen understand their own Interests too well to be imposed upon by false Colourings, and carried away with plausible Pretences, to become the Instruments of having Fetters and Shackles put on themselves, which, by degrees, may sap the Foundation of their Liberties. For by the same Parity of Reason, and under the like plausible Pretences, one further Limitation may be added to another, 'till our Rights become so limited, and so circumscribed, as to have nothing substantial left.

It seems somewhat strange that any People, of common Discernment, should be so far sup'd as to make Application that they might not be entrusted with the Exercise of their own fundamental Rights; for as the Laws now stand, if a Member of the House of Commons accept of any Office or Place under the Crown, his Seat in Parliament becomes immediately vacated, which the People are again to fill up by a new Election, they being made, as by their constitutional Rights they really are, the proper Judges of the Fitness or Unfitness of a Person to supply that Vacancy, and are accordingly at Liberty, either to re-elect the same Person, or, if they think his accepting that Office or Place under the Crown has any way disqualify'd him for their Service, to reject him, and make choice of any other Person, of whose Fitness and Qualification they are better satisfy'd.

Every one must be sensible of the Danger there is in parting with fundamental Rights, or, which amounts to much the same thing, to have the Exercise of them limited and restrained; which would really be the Case, should this Project of a further Limitation take place. And Experience has taught us, that we are not always to judge of Things by their Outfides, nor of the Designs of Men from the specious Pretences under which they are disguised. Publick Spirit, the Liberty and Welfare of the Subject, the Defeating the Ill Designs of an Administration, or the Correcting Mismanagement and Abuse in the Publick, have always been the popular Cry of the Minority, in order to engage the People in their Measures of Opposition to an Administration, when at Bottom nothing more has been really meant than to displace those in Power, in order to make Way for themselves. And then the same, or perhaps worse Measures, passing through their Hands, have immediately chang'd their Name, if not their Nature. And this can be no Secret to People of Experience and Discernment.

Projects of this same Nature sometimes take their Rise from private Struggles for Power, and (as I have been well inform'd) was the Case when the Law now in being for disqualifying Persons holding certain Offices under the Crown was made. Sir Walter Yonge, in the Commission of the Customs, and Mr. Clark of Chipley, in the Commission of the Excise, having also at the same time Seats in Parliament, where they often distinguished themselves in speaking so well upon some Subjects that came under the Consideration of the House, that a Scheme was con-

certed by some leading Persons of Distinction (who were often gall'd by those Speeches) for the making that Law, as thinking thereby to turn them out of the House; concluding they would choose rather to leave their Seats in Parliament than part with their Commissions. But they mist'd their End; these Gentlemen, to their Honour be it spoken, having so much Virtue and Publick Spirit as to throw up their Commissions, and keep their Seats in Parliament, thinking, as they could not hold both, they might be of more Service in their Parliamentary Capacity than in the other.

Nor can I think that the Conduct of the Liverymen of the City of London, in the Instructions given to their Members, ought to have any Weight with us, as that Conduct might possibly take its Rise from a corrupt and undue Influence against the Court. Great Bodies of Men are sometimes misled by a Few. Private Resentment, Party Intrigues, and a wild Ambition of distinguishing themselves, sometimes induce them to do Things neither safe nor becoming. And their Behaviour on this Occasion deserves our Resentment rather than our Imitation. For supposing they have, by some Means or other, taken up Prejudices against the Court (whether justly or unjustly is not material) determining them to elect no Person to represent them in Parliament who holds any Office under the Crown; What then? Does it become the Liverymen of the City of London to apply to the Parliament for a Law to abridge the rest of their Fellow-subjects in the Exercise of a Right so essential to their Liberties? Pray, why are not others to judge for themselves of the Fitness and Qualification of their own Representatives, as well as the Liverymen of London? For did they think that all the rest were of their Sentiments there could be no Foundation for such a Law.

One might reasonably have expected, that Men who would be thought to have set an Example to be follow'd by others should have observ'd more Decency and Modesty in their Behaviour, and have requested their Members to recommend such a Measure to the Consideration of Parliament (who are doubtless the proper and sole Judges of the Fitness or Unfitness of passing that, or any other thing, into a Law); instead of which these Gentlemen are in a peremptory and haughty Manner REQUIRED to make it a previous Step to the passing of any Money-Bill whatsoever: Which is as much as to say, that THEIR Will must be receiv'd as Law, or the State must fall a Sacrifice to blind Faction. A Doctrine big with Mischief, and in its Consequences manifestly tending to destroy all Freedom of Parliament.

[The Remainder the first Opportunity.]

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, Jan. 4. On the 22d of December last died Dame Katharine Gordon, Lady to the Hon. Lieutenant General Gordon, at his Seat of Auchinrool in Banffshire, in the 75th Year of her Age; a Lady of strict Virtue and Piety.

A large Newcastle Coalier was this Week put up the Frith by the high Winds, having lost her Masts hard by her Deck, she had been undoubtedly cast away on the Rocks near St Andrews, but for the good Advice of a Scots Lad aboard.

A Yarmouth Vessel belonging to Mr. Horsely, from Norway, is also put up here, and lost her Main-Mast.

Tuesday died here, in an advanced Age, the Lady Pringle, Widow of Sir John Pringle of Stichel, Bart.

HOME PORTS.

Deal, Jan. 10. Wind N.E. Remain in the Downs his Majesty's Ship the Chatham, with a Ship from Dunkirk, Name unknown.

Gravesend, Jan. 10. Come to Gravesend, and no further, the Neptune, Eaton, and the Dunkirk, Stevenson, both from Dunkirk; the Phenix, Oliver, from Newfoundland, and the Lisbon Gally, Blackabet, from Lisbon, and the Globe, Everard, from ditto.

LONDON.

L O N D O N.

They write from Rome, that the Accommodation with the Court of Turin was concluded on the 15th ult. O.S. by which the Pope consents to declare the King of Sardinia General and Perpetual Vicar of the Fiefs of the Holy See in Piedmont and Savoy; and the King agrees to present his H. line's every Year with Two Gold Chalices, &c. by Way of Acknowledgment for the Revenues of those Fiefs.

Those of the 22d from Venice say, that the King of the Two Sicilies is negotiating not only a Treaty of Commerce, but another of Defensive Alliance with that Republick.

Letters of the 19th ditto from Vienna say, that all the Troops which the Grand Seignior had sent for from Asia on Account of the last War, have receiv'd Orders to return back into that Country, where they are to be employ'd against Kouli Kan, in case that a War should break out again betwixt him and the Turks: And that the Count de Wallis is come from Zigeth to a Seat of the Prince of Esterhazy, near Edenbourg in Hungary.

Those of the 23d from Hanover say, that M. de Schulembourg, who had a Command in the Troops of that Electorate, but fled in May last for killing M. Bulau, his Brother-Officer, in a Duel near Hamelen, is broke; and that the D. of the own Brother and another Officer who were their Seconds, are both condemn'd to do Duty as Private Centinels, the one for a Month only, the other for 2 Months.

Those of the same Date from Dresden say, that the Count de Fries, one of the King of Poland's Ministers and Generals, and Governor of that City, and all the Fortresses in Saxony, who set out lately for Montpellier for the Recovery of his Health, dy'd a few Leagues from that City, in the 59th Year of his Age.

They write from Madrid, by the Way of Paris, that Don Iturraldo, Comptroller-General of the King of Spain's Finances, perceiving that the Measures he was taking to retrieve them, did but create him Envy and Enmity, had with much Impertunity prevail'd on the Catholick King to give him Leave to resign.

Letters of the 18th Instant from the Hague say, that the Treaty of Commerce betwixt that Republick and France will soon be made publick; and that the Ratification of it by the States General is actually sent back to Paris.

They suffer as much from the Severity of the Weather in Holland as here, inasmuch that several Persons have been starv'd to Death with the Cold; and some who were travelling from one Place to another over the Ice upon Skates, have been frozen to Death. They also complain of the Irregular Arrival of their Posts and Carriers, by Reason of the Badness of the Roads.

Yesterday the following Prizes were drawn in the Bridge Lottery viz. No. 30961, 1000 l. No. 55087, 25000, 35377, 28624, 31731, 63342, 11320, 63702, each 100 l. No. 10536, 5288, 25675, 9511, 2382, 40230, 45713, 48256, 35310, 47526, 52955, 53046, 5759, each 50 l.

We hear, that the Right Hon. the Earl of Tankerville has had a Dinner dress'd every Day during this cold Weather for the Relief of the Poor of Bradfield, and all that are able go, and those that are not it is sent to.

Yesterday the Justices of the Peace for the City and Liberty of Westminster met, pursuant to their last Adjournment.

At the said Sessions Lieutenant Col. Cracherode took the Oaths to qualify himself for the chief Command of the five new Independent Companies of Invalids.

As did also several Captains and Lieutenants, to qualify themselves for their respective Employments in the Marine Service.

The Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor will hold the first general Seal before Hilary Term on Tuesday next, at Lincoln's Inn Hall.

Six thousand new Fire arms, together with Swords and Bayonets, are getting ready at the Tower for the Marines.

Next Monday comes on the Election of a Member of Parliament for Malden in Essex, in the Room of Henry Parsons, Esq; deceased, when Benjamin Keene, Esq; his Majesty's late Minister at Madrid, will be chosen without Opposition.

We hear, that William Kynaston, Esq; one of the Masters in Chancery, is appointed Cusitor Baron of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, in the Room of Mr. Baron Clive, deceased.

Master Beauclerk, Son of the late Lord William Beauclerk, deceased, and Nephew to his Grace the Duke of St. Albans, is appointed a Page of Honour to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.

High Water this Day } Morning } Evening }
at London Bridge. } 08 09 } 08 36 }

Bank Stock 138. India 157. South Sea 96. Old Annuity 109 1-8th. New ditto 109 1-8th. Three per Cent. 99 1-half. Seven per Cent. Loan 110 7-8ths. Five per Cent. ditto 88 3-4ths. Royal Assurance 88. London Assurance 11 1-8th. African 13 1-half. India Bonds 31. 16 s. Prem. South Sea ditto — Bank Circulation 21. 17 s. 6 d. Prem. Salt Tallies 1-half to 1 Prem. English Copper 31. 7 s. 6 d. Welsh ditto 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 101. Three per Cent. ditto 94 1-half. Million Bank 114. Equivalent 110 1-8th. Lottery Tickets 131. 15 s.

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And he shall be like a Tree planted by the Rivers of Water, that bringeth forth his Fruit in his Season. His Leaf also shall not wither. PSALM I.

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Shalt out-reach Cæsar, in thy Pow'r and Fame—
Form and Degrees let earthy Spirits need;
Thy Soul eccentric, moves with indred Speed,
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